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Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum**

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* A/70/50.
** The information in the present document was received after the submission of the main report.

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Annex I

Replies received from Member States

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[6 May 2015]

Cuba underscores the importance of General Assembly resolution 65/119, by which the Assembly declared the period 2011-2020 the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and called on the States Members of the United Nations to work in good faith towards the complete eradication of colonialism and support the effective implementation of the plan of action during the Third International Decade.

Cuba reiterates the need for all United Nations Member States to join efforts to ensure that the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories are able to exercise their genuine right to self-determination, including independence, as soon as possible.

The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples has been making consistent and dedicated efforts to fulfil its mandate. Cuba has contributed to the achievement of the Committee's objectives by participating actively and on a continuous basis in that forum; it is currently serving as its Vice-Chair.

The Special Committee engages in a number of successful practices: it maintains dialogue and cooperates with the administering Powers, representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and Member States; dispatches visiting missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories; and holds regional seminars. These activities have enhanced United Nations capacity to assist the peoples of those Territories in attaining the objectives set out in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV).

The regional seminars on decolonization have proven to be useful in facilitating the active participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing-Territories and help to mobilize international public opinion in order to increase support and assistance for the peoples of those Territories. Cuba has participated actively in the regional seminars organized by the Special Committee.

The complete eradication of colonialism requires the full support of the administering Powers, which must take all necessary measures to promote the political, economic, social, cultural and educational progress of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories; facilitate those peoples' exercise of the right to self-determination and independence; and continue to submit to the United Nations adequate information, pursuant to Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations.

Under no circumstances should the exercise of the right of self-determination be affected by changes made by the administering Powers to the demographic composition of colonial territories.

The administering Powers should continue to cooperate or resume their cooperation with the Special Committee and participate actively in its activities.

Cuba attaches particular importance to the fact that, for 15 consecutive years, the Special Committee has adopted by consensus a resolution that recognizes the inalienable right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and requests the Assembly to comprehensively discuss all aspects of the question of Puerto Rico.

The Movement of Non-Aligned Countries has also declared in the Special Committee its position that the question of Puerto Rico is a colonial case and has called upon the Government of the United States of America to assume its responsibility to expedite a process that will allow the Puerto Rican people to fully exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence. In addition, the Movement has insisted on the need for the timely implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Special Committee concerning the colonial case of Puerto Rico.

Furthermore, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States has highlighted the Latin American and Caribbean character of Puerto Rico, and, taking note of the resolutions on Puerto Rico adopted by the Special Committee, it has reiterated that it considers Puerto Rico to be an issue of interest to the Community.

Member countries of the Community have committed themselves to continue working, in the framework of international law, particularly in the framework of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), to make the region of Latin America and the Caribbean a territory free of colonialism and colonies.

Despite more than 100 years of colonial rule by the United States, the Puerto Rican people have never given up their courageous and difficult struggle to exercise their legitimate right to sovereignty and independence. This is why the Special Committee has adopted some 33 resolutions and decisions on Puerto Rico.

At the national level, Cuba has sought to protect Non-Self-Governing Territories from the effects of environmental degradation and ecological damage and has called for the timely provision of assistance to monitor both natural and man-made threats to the environment and the relief required during environmental emergencies.

Despite its status as a developing country and its limited resources, Cuba has offered scholarships to the residents of Non-Self-Governing Territories and notes with satisfaction that more than 2,000 have graduated from Cuban schools and universities.

Cuba reiterates its firm commitment to the cause of decolonization and calls upon all Member States to continue working together in order to eradicate the scourge of colonialism as soon as possible. In addition, the administering Powers must refrain from establishing military bases and installations in Non-Self-Governing Territories.